

Claims

1. A method of knitting a tubular knitted fabric comprising a first knitted fabric and a second knitted fabric joined together continuously at both ends thereof, and a laminating part formed in the first knitted fabric at which the knitted fabric is partly laminated in at least two layers by using a flat knitting machine comprising having at least a pair of front and back needle beds which extend laterally and are arranged opposite to each other and have a large number of needles respectively and at least one of which can be racked rightward and leftward to transfer loops between the needles beds,
10 the method comprising:
 - 1) the step of forming the tubular knitted fabric via a full-gauge loop arrangement,
 - 2) the knitting width widening step of shifting loops of wale where the laminating part is formed and loops of wale positioned closer to a side end of the knitted fabric than the wale where the laminating part is formed, to provide a half-gauge loop arrangement wherein empty needles for stitch transfer are arranged between needles used for forming the loops of the wale where the laminating part is formed, and
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 - 3) the step of knitting the first knitted fabric and the second knitted fabric, while the loops of wale where the laminating part is formed are formed to be fine in size so that when the knitting is ended, the loops of wale where the laminating part is formed can be substantially equal in size to the loops in other regions than the wale where the laminating part is formed, to
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 - 25 provide the same texture as the loops other than those of the laminating

layer part.

2. The method of knitting the tubular knitted fabric according to Claim 1, wherein in the knitting width widening step, the loops of wale where the laminating part is formed and the loops positioned closer to a side end of the knitted fabric than the wale where the laminating part is formed are shifted at a location at which formation of the laminating part starts, so that the loops of wale where the laminating part is formed are put in the half-gauge loop arrangement wherein the empty needles for stitch transfer are arranged between the needles used for forming the loops of the wale where the laminating part is formed.
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3. The method of knitting the tubular knitted fabric according to Claim 1, wherein, after completion of the knitting of the laminating part, a knitting width narrowing step is taken to return the loops of the laminating part to the full-gauge loop arrangement.
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4. The method of knitting the tubular knitted fabric according to any one of Claims 1-3, wherein the loops of wale where the laminating part of the first knitted fabric is formed; the loops positioned closer to the side end of the knitted fabric than the wale where the laminating part is formed; loops of wale at a portion thereof confronting the laminating part of the second knitted fabric; and the loops of wale positioned closer to the side end of the knitted fabric than the wale at a portion thereof confronting the laminating part are transferred to their respective opposite needle beds and then at least any one of the front and needle beds is racked, so that whenever racked a predetermined pitch, the loops of wale where the laminating part
20 of the first knitted fabric is formed and the loops of wale at a portion thereof
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confronting the wale where the laminating part of the second knitted fabric is formed are returned to their respective original needle beds, so that the loops of the wale where the laminating part is formed and the loops of wale at the portion thereof confronting the laminating part are put in the
5 half-gauge loop arrangement.

5. The method of knitting the tubular knitted fabric according to any one of Claims 1-3, wherein the knitting width widening step and/or the knitting width narrowing step includes the feed knitting step that loops of the knitted fabric on the side thereof on which the knitting width is larger or
10 will be larger are sequentially transferred to respective positions at the outside of the loops at the side end of the knitted fabric retained on the other needle bed from the loop at the side end of the knitted fabric and then the loops are shifted to prevent increase of difference in knitting width between the first knitted fabric and the second knitted fabric.